



HARBOR

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CONGREGATION

MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

July 2026 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Services Begin at 10:30am

July 5

“Free Speech Sunday: Fighting Words”

cooridated by Kwame James

We invite participation in our annual celebration of Free Speech Sunday.

This unique UU holiday honors our religious and political traditions of engaging in free speech. Celebrate freedom of expression by sharing your voice. *Please contact Kwame to secure your place in the speaker's line. Extemporaneous monologues will only be included if time permits.*

Noisy Offering

July 12

“The Death and Perfect Resurrection of Hope”

Jones Barton

Jones Barton presents this piece by Michael Sorenson whose essays cover a fascinating range of topics rooted in History, Philosophy, and Culture. Jones has been attending HUUC since 2019 and Board Secretary since 2020. Michael Sorensen is the author of essays: Captivating and distinctively paced, Michael's youtube channel, HORSES, offers an oasis of thoughtful storytelling in a chaotic media landscape.

July 19

“A Restless Person's Search for Peace”

Teresa Thome

In a world that constantly pulls us towards anxiety, outrage and exhaustion, Thome has recently embarked on efforts to stop trying to control the chaos around her but focus on controlling the peace within her. This is the story of one restless person's imperfect journey toward peace, and the practices that have helped make that journey possible.

July 26

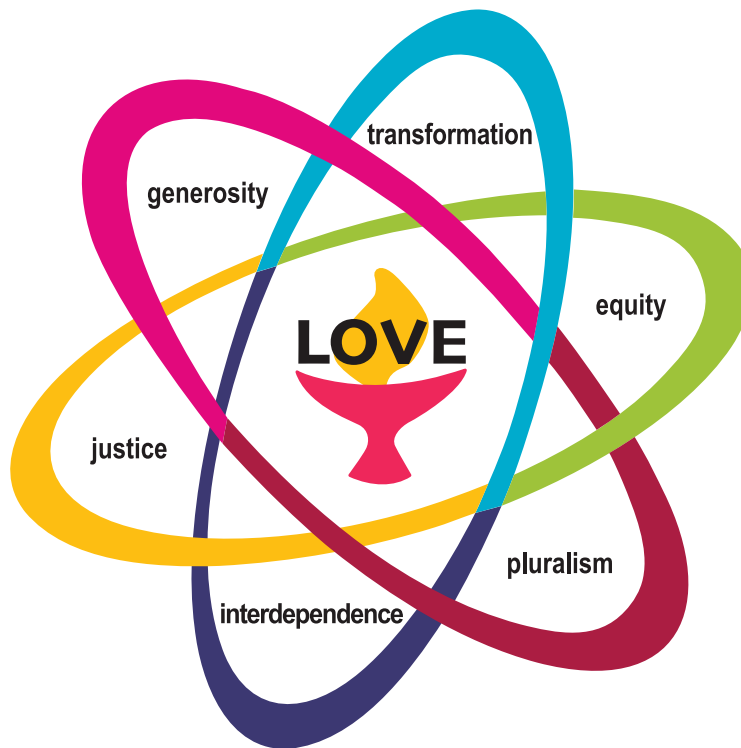
“Beating Swords Into Plowshares”

David Douglas

...an introduction to the Teachings of the Baha'i Faith, sharing the plan for peace, justice and prosperity that is embedded in the sacred writings of the Baha'i Faith. Elements including a process of personal transformation, aligning our souls with the Divine Will, and the reorganization of society so that it reflects the organic oneness of our human family. Baha'is are working with collaborators to build a world founded on the principles of the oneness of the human family, equality of women and men, freedom from all forms of prejudice, the harmony of science and religion, the unity of all religions, and the release of human potential through universal education.

Meet With Us In-person at 1296 Montgomery, Muskegon, MI 49441

Zoom With Us at <https://zoom.us/j/91447658076>



Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, July 20 • 6:00 pm

All are welcome!

in person or via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96744707168>

HUUC Board of Trustees

Kal Fox, President

Robin Dennany, Vice President

Kurt Troutman, Treasurer

Jones Barton, Secretary

Members at Large

Christine Cleary, Michelle Martin-Mills, Don Mangione

Music Director Sue McIntire

Director of Religious Education Anna EldenBrady

If you ever have any questions for the Board you can contact us via e mail at

trustees@harboruu.org



HUUC Mission Statement:

Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a safe haven inspiring people to seek their own spiritual truths through worship and learning in community as we build a better world together.

HUUC Vision Statement:

The people of Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation envision a community where connections are strengthened and deepened, where families are supported, and where diversity is celebrated.



News from the Director of Religious Education

July 2026 Religious Education Updates

Hello, Harbor UU Friends!

We are almost done with our structured curriculum and ready for a break until after the school year begins in the fall, but that does not mean we're any less busy than usual!

As a reminder, if youth or families want to revisit the RE lessons or see current curriculum, it is available on our Google Classroom link. The QR code is in the social hall and the [Join Code is 4zbimzms](#).

We need volunteers over the summer for our Sunday morning youth craft and faith-formation activities. There is a sign-up sheet on the vertical rack in the social hall. [It is also available for you to look over on Google Drive](#). If you're interested in helping, whether as a craft facilitator or donating materials, please be in touch.

On the subject of donations...we're going to need a bunch of **pool noodles** we can cut up and turn into "beads" and I'm going to need some help with that task. If you happen to have some pool noodles you're willing to sacrifice to the cause (of making giant [bead lizards or snakes](#)), or you really want to help me slice a bunch of pool noodles into beads, please talk to me. I would love to have help preparing this craft for **August 2nd**.

In addition to our summer Sunday morning programming, I am looking forward to [Journeys of Deeper Joy Table Top Role Playing Game](#). I need a general idea of who's interested in learning the game and when folks might be able to attend. There

is a sign-up sheet in the social hall. I am planning on running The Love Archipelago 5 session mini campaign, with the opportunity to expand into the full game if folks are interested after. ***This will be an opportunity for intergenerational play.***

I am also going to be presenting a series of webinars over Zoom over the next few months as an addition to our Adult Enrichment opportunities. The first will be on **July 27th at 6:00pm**, "Disability History: Celebrating the Path to the ADA." Future topics will include "LGBTQ 101 & Ask-Me-Anything" on **August 4th**, "LGBTQueerstory" **September 14th**, and "Pronouns: Beyond the Binary" **October 20th**. You can RSVP for these webinars online using the [RSVP Google Form](#), via email, or by leaving your contact information on the RE Opportunities clipboard in the social hall. These webinars are open to trusted individuals and organizations outside of HUUC—you can either have interested people email me or you can send them the link to the Google Form.

If you would like to help with these or any other upcoming opportunities, including our future ***OWL program***, our RE Committee will be meeting next on **Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00pm** in the lower level of the church.

I'm happy to hear ideas, answer questions, or brainstorm "good trouble," and you can reach me via email at aeldenbrady@outlook.com or visit me in my office before/after lessons.

Thank you for supporting our RE program!
Anna L. EldenBrady

**Volunteers are needed for summer RE--there is a sign-up sheet in the social hall.
Activities include crafts, storytime, and sidewalk chalk!**

News from C A R I N G COMMITTEE...

The caring team has become a strong and vital part of our UU experience. We acknowledge the vital and valuable part we play in this sacred space and to that end, we hope that you will turn to us for any issue that is a concern in your life. We are here to help you carry those difficulties that make knots in our lives. We offer a hand, a shoulder or an ear for those times. Please reach out - we are here.

Condolences to **Marcia Hovey-Wright** on the loss of her sister.

Condolences to **Anna EldenBrady** on the loss of her dear friend, Nycki.

Thoughts and prayers for comfort to **Shirley Hoffstedt and family** on the passing of husband, father, grandfather (Morfar), and great grandfather, **Richard "Dick" Hoffstedt** on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at Heartwood Lodge, surrounded by family.

Condolences to **Michelle Martin** on the loss of her aunt.

We have four members:
Sue McIntire, Christine Cleary, Deborah Margules, and Ange Barnes.
(If you would like to be involved in any way, please let one of us know.)
Contact: Sue McIntire (231) 563-3988

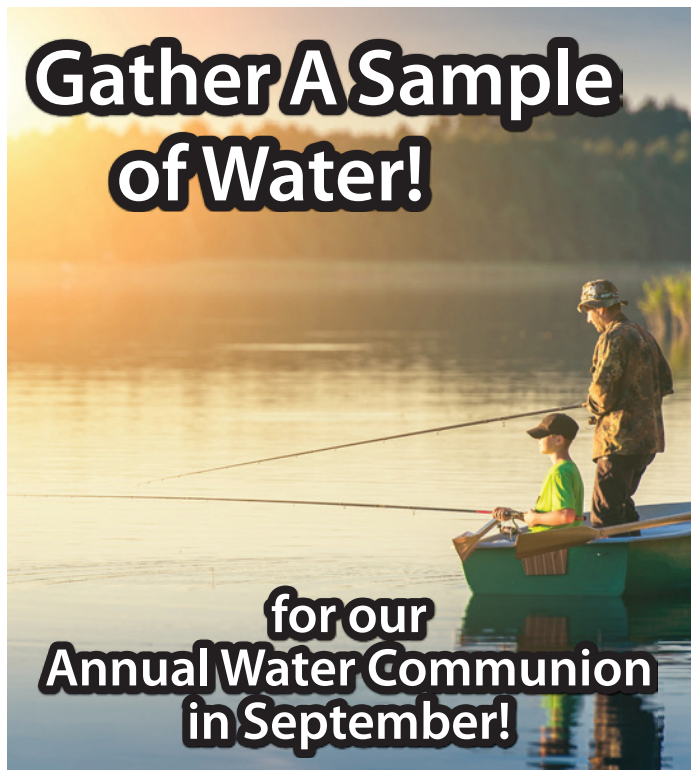


Nancy Stier with Robin Dennany

In recognition of outstanding fellowship, **Nancy Stier** was presented the *Ruth Berlow and Lucile Mason Award* during Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation's annual meeting. Each year, one congregation member is selected to receive this honor. Nancy has contributed to our fellowship numerous ways throughout the years: touching almost every HUUC (or affiliated) endeavor, commitment, and fundraiser. More recently she serves co-coordinating Social Justice, caring for our garden with love and patience, and stepping in and stepping up whenever requested.

Gather A Sample of Water!

for our
**Annual Water Communion
in September!**



HUUC Social Action Committee

2026 Annual Report – May 26, 2026

1. COMMITTEE: The committee has grown from 3-4 active members to 10-11 active members this year, due to the political environment and the need for social action.
2. UU THE VOTE: We have plans to sign up voters at MCC and Pride and encourage Permanent Absentee voters. We plan to coordinate with other groups like Indivisible, Indy Next Gen and the Dems to register voters.
3. THIRD SPACE – We have been hosting these gatherings of young people (Gen z, Gen X and Millennials) to foster community and encourage political engagement. The cool thing is how much they value “Elders” We have transitioned to bringing snacks and Pop to share. People bring craft projects, help with button making, and have discussions about coping in this political environment. They love Joys and concerns and this has helped develop community. Attendance has been 25 to 50 young people and HUUC “elders”
4. MUSKEGON PRIDE – The SJA committee was asked to take the lead this year so our LGBTQ members could enjoy the event. The Booth volunteers are scheduled, set up is planned and supplies ordered and ready to go. Anna is organizing the HUUC parade.
5. READING TUTORS AT BUNKER: This year we got started at the beginning of the year, and the Bunker staff provided a defined and proven program for reading improvement. Due to varying personal and work related complications, only two volunteers are participating. Tutoring has been very rewarding for the volunteers but we need to evaluate continuing.
6. ENDOWMENT PROJECTS – The newly named Social Justice Action Committee to be consistent with other UUs, applied to the Endowment Committee for funds to pay for a food truck at the First Congregational Church. Our date is Saturday August 1, and we will need 10 volunteers. We are doing this with First Congo because they have the tables, the infrastructure, the clientel and the relationship with Feeding America and it requires more volunteers than we can provide ourselves.
7. SUPPER HOUSE: HUUC is responsible for every 3rd Friday, 3-5 at Temple United Methodist Church in the Heights. Again only a few members participate – 1-3
8. PROTESTS – The SJA committee informs the membership about upcoming protests and rallies through weekly announcements. Indivisible puts out a monthly schedule about postcard writing, bridge protests, protests at the mall and other locations. Of the new members who have joined HUUC of are thinking about it, most have been attracted by our focus on Social Justice activities.
9. The committee meets monthly at times that fit member availability.

Adult Enrichment Webinars!

July 27th / 6pm / Zoom

"Disability History:
Celebrating the Path to the ADA."

August 4th / 6pm / Zoom

"LGBTQ 101 & Ask-Me-Anything"

September 14th / 6pm / Zoom

"LGBTQueerstory"

October 20th / 6pm / Zoom

"Pronouns: Beyond the Binary"

RSVP: [RSVP Google Form](#), via email, or by leaving your contact information on the RE Opportunities clipboard in the social hall.

These webinars are open to trusted individuals and organizations outside of HUUC—you can either have interested people email me or you can send them the link to the Google Form

POTLUCK!

*Sunday July 19th
After Service
Bring a Dish to Share*



July 5 : "Free Speech Sunday"

This unique UU holiday honors our religious and political traditions of engaging in free speech. Celebrate freedom of expression by sharing your voice. You have a maximum of 3 minutes to speak what is on your mind.

*The pulpit is open to the first six (6) respondents. Please contact **Kwame James** to secure your place in the speaker's line. Extemporaneous monologues will only be included if time permits.*

Now is our time to let freedom ring!

Choir will be on Summer Break!

Choir is off until September.

**We will be having a summer
get-together (potluck) on
Thursday, July 23, at Rebecca's
& Kwame's house at 6:30pm**

**If you have any interest in
choir, please join us!**

Please submit information for the **July Newsletter** by Monday, June 29th to
gingermajick@hotmail.com

THIRD SPACE

An exciting new idea for a recurring community event emerged this spring from the Social Justice Committee. Called **Third Space**, it's a physical place that's not work or home, where connections can be made in real life among young people concerned about this country's current politics.

As described on the Third Space monthly flier, it's *"a place for Millennials and Gen-z in the Muskegon community to gather with progressive peers and elders to do arts and crafts, discuss our grief, our hope, and how to get involved."* It was created out of a dire need for community expressed by three of the SJ Committee's younger members (Aubri Carrell, Annie Tymensky, and Melrose McQueen). This need for community, and one including elders, is especially acute for young people who are estranged from their families because of their politics, or for being queer, or both.

Third Space happens on the **third Thursday evening of every month** in the social hall. Five have been held so far; attendance has been between 16-35, with some new people each month and also, now, regulars. "Elders" from the SJ Committee have maintained the generational mix. It has become a treasured space for members of Indy Next Gen, a progressive West Michigan community for "the young and young at heart." At Third Space, these young activists

can regroup and restore. One of them was quoted recently as saying *"Third Space is the best thing to happen in Muskegon in years."*

There is no formal structure to the evening. People drift in, groups form, conversations begin. Food is either provided by the SJ Committee or potluck. Crafting is big—some crafting supplies are provided; many folks bring their own. In May there was a group making political buttons for Indy Next Gen. Although a motivating factor in creating Third Space was finding tools to fight fascism, the SJ Committee is letting Third Space evolve organically **rather than setting agendas or trying to steer it in any particular direction.**

There is one thing that does happen regularly: the **Joys and Concerns** ritual, borrowed from the UU Sunday service. It began as a spontaneous idea, something to try, at the first Third Space, and proved popular. Almost everyone in attendance has something to share. It's been a feature each month except for June's Third Space, in which a smaller than usual group enjoyed a game of **Queer Trivia.**

While intended as a place where Millennials and Gen Z can mix with each other and elders, Third Space has no age requirements and doesn't check I.D. **So, come check it out!**



JULY 2026 Calendar

H A R B O R
Unitarian Universalist
C O N G R E G A T I O N

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:30a Worship 4:00p Core Circles	29 Newsletter Deadline COTD PF Dedication	30 7:00p Trans GNC Group	1	2	3	4
5 10:30a Worship Free Speech Sunday *Noisy Offering	6	7 7:00p Trans GNC Group	8	9	10	11
12 10:30a Worship	13	14 6:00p Worship Com. 7:00p Trans GNC Group	15	16 6:30p 3rd Space	17 3:00p Supper House	18
19 10:30a Worship 12:00p Potluck	20 6:00p Board Mtg	21 6:00p RE Committee 7:00p Trans GNC Group	22 7:30p Social Justice	23 6:30p Choir Potluck	24	25
26 10:30a Worship 4:00p Core Circles	27 6:00 Adult Enrich- ment Webinar Newsletter Deadline	28 7:00p Trans GNC Group	29	30	31	1
						Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions